Isaiah Chapters 20 thru 23

1. **Read Isaiah chapter 20:1. This event occurred in 711 B.C. when Assyria conquered the city of Ashdod.**
   1.1. Where is Ashdod, geographically, in relation to Jerusalem?

   1.2. What was the likely reaction, in Jerusalem, to the defeat and capture of such a near neighbor?

2. **Read Isaiah 20:2-3. The Lord commands Isaiah to act out a sign.**
   2.1. What would be the fate of Egypt and Ethiopia, as demonstrated by Isaiah's "action" prophecy?

3. **Read verses 5-6 of Isaiah 20.**
   3.1. At that time, when these strong nations would be lead away captive in humiliation, how would the inhabitants of Judah respond, according to these verses?

   3.2. The inhabitants of Judah had become accustomed to turning to their allies in time of distress. That option would no longer be available. What is the application for us, in relying upon worldly wisdom, or the "arm of flesh" (2 Chron 32:8?)

   3.3. Where does the Lord want us to turn?

   3.4. How quickly if we're honest, do we turn to the Lord for wisdom, guidance or help?

      3.4.1. Do we do this *first*, or after trying to figure it out for ourselves, maybe even seeking counsel from others, either godly or worldly?

   3.5. Has this changed over the course of your walk with the Lord?

4. **Read Isaiah chapter 21:3:4. Throughout the book of Isaiah we see God's heart for His people. Here we get a glimpse of Isaiah's heart.**
   4.1. Why was Isaiah in this state?

   4.2. Application: As we look at the world around us right now can we say we have love for all. Discuss how difficult this really is. (read John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:7 &11 & 20).

5. **Read Isaiah chapter 22:1-7. Isaiah describes a future time of calamity for the nation.**
   5.1. While others do the "spoiling" and "treading down," who is ultimately responsible for this calamity upon Jerusalem, according to verse 5?

5.2. What is His purpose in doing this?

6. Read verses 8-12 of Isaiah 22. In verse 8, we learn that Judah's protection was removed.

6.1. How did the people, and their king, respond to the coming danger, according to verses 8b-11a? (See also 2 Chron 32:2-5.)

6.2. What did they fail to do, according to verse 11b?

6.3. While the efforts to secure the city were certainly smart, from a worldly perspective, (Hezekiah's aqueduct system was an ingenious feat of engineering that remains to this day) the Lord was calling them to repent and turn to *Him*. (Verse 12.) **What is the application for us? Should we do nothing, and wait on the Lord? Or should we do everything we can in our own strength? What is the proper balance, or sequence?**

7. Read verses 13-14 of Isaiah 22.

7.1. How did the people respond, instead of repenting and turning to God?

7.2. What does this attitude reveal about these people?

7.2.1. Does this attitude toward life, and toward God, exist today?

7.2.1.1. What is the danger? (See verse 14.)

7.2.1.2. Who is at fault?

8. Read Isaiah 23.

8.1. What is the issue God has with Tyre? (hint: what does God call them in verse 9)

8.2. Read Proverbs 6:16:19. How does God feel about pride? (pretty strong language God uses)

9. One theme through these chapters is that God is sovereign, and His word can be trusted. Isaiah say's in these chapters that God has spoken it and I have declared it to you. And we know these have come true.

9.1. Discuss:

9.1.1. How does God's word comfort you (us)?

9.1.2. Isaiah was asked to walk naked for 3 years as part of his ministry to prophecy to God's people. Has God ever asked you to do something so extreme? How did you handle it? Did you have confidence in God through it?